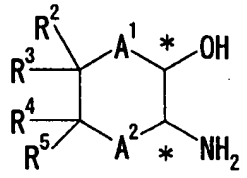
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This following listing of claims will replace all prior listings for the application.

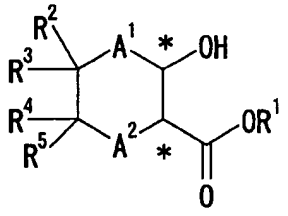
Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the production of an optically active amino alcohol represented by the following formula (I)



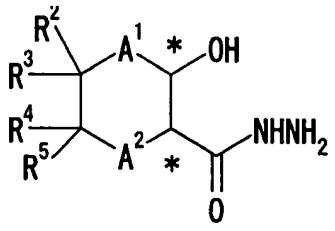
(I)

(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each independently is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally-substituted phenyl group; R^2 or R^3 may be bonded to R^4 or R^5 forming a ring together with the adjacent carbon atoms; A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while A^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); * is an asymmetric carbon atom where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to ~~alkoxycarbonyl~~ amino group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) or a salt thereof, comprising reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s); R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to ~~amino~~ alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the following formula (III)

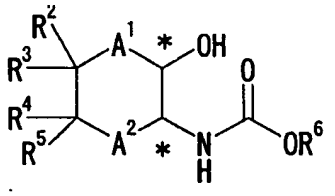


(III)

(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans), then conducting a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

$$R^6\ OH \qquad (VI)$$

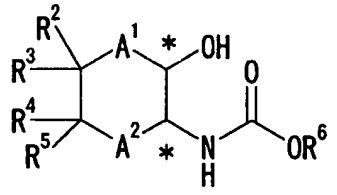
(wherein, R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group) to give an optically active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)



(II)

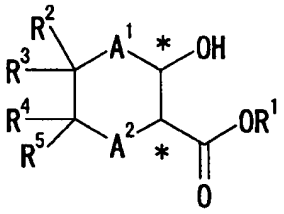
(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonylamino group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and then deprotecting a protective group for the amino group.

2. (currently amended) A process for the production of an optically active alkoxycarbonylamino alcohol represented by the following formula (II)



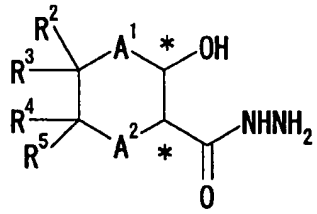
(II)

(wherein, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each independently is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or an optionally-substituted phenyl group; R^2 or R^3 may be bonded to R^4 or R^5 forming a ring together with the adjacent carbon atoms; R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group; A^1 is $-(CH_2)_m-$ while A^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-$ (where m and n each is an integer of 0 to 3 and m + n is 1 to 3); * is an asymmetric carbon atom where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to ~~alkoxycarbonyl~~ alkoxycarbonylamino group on each of asymmetric carbons marked * is trans), comprising reacting an optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s); R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked* is trans) with hydrazine to prepare an optically-active hydroxycarboxylic hydrazide compound represented by the following formula (III)



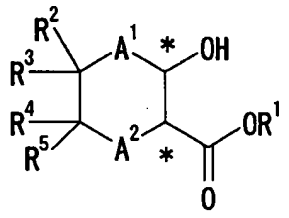
(III)

(wherein, R^2 R^3, R^4 R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to hydrazinocarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) and conducting a Curtius reaction in the presence of an alcohol represented by the following formula (VI)

$$R^6\ OH \qquad (VI)$$

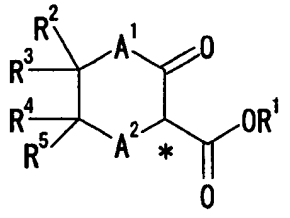
(wherein, R^6 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon(s) or an optionally-substituted benzyl group).

3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the optically active hydroxycarboxylate represented by the following formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein, R^1, R^2 R^3, R^4, R^5, A^1, A^2, m, n and * have the same meanings as defined above where the relative configuration of hydroxyl group to alkoxycarbonyl group on each of the asymmetric carbons marked * is trans) is a product prepared by subjecting a β-keto ester represented by the following formula (V)



(V)

(wherein, R^1, R^2 R^3, R^4, R^5, A^1, A^2, m and n have the same meanings as defined above) to an asymmetric hydrogenation in the presence of a ruthenium complex including an optically active phosphine compound as a ligand.

4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 or 2 , wherein R^6 is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R^6 is a benzyl group.

6. (previously presented) The process of claim 3 wherein R^6 is an optionally substituted benzyl group.

7. (previously presented) The process of claim 3 wherein R^6 is a benzyl group.